

Message Text

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14

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1413

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 8600

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, MASS, TU

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH GOT ON OPIUM POPPY CONTROLS

REF: (A) STATE 236807 (B) ANKARA 7697 (C) ANKARA 7730 (D) STATE
255720 (E) STATE 255721 (F) ANKARA 8149 (G) STATE 274517

1. WE PROPOSE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE FOR USE IN PRESIDENTIAL
REPORT TO CONGRESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 94-104
(S. 2230, AS AMENDED):

2. PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 94-104, DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN
HELD RECENTLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY ON THE
SUBJECT OF PREVENTING DIVERSION INTO ILLEGAL CHANNELS
OF THE PRODUCTS OF TURKEY'S OPIUM POPPY CROP. THESE
RECENT DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE LONG-STANDING CONSULTATIONS
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES
AND THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY ON SUPPRESSING
ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTICS.

3. THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY IS, I BELIEVE, AWARE OF
OUR CONCERN AND THAT OF THE ENTIRE WORLD COMMUNITY AT
THE TERRIBLE BLIGHT OF DRUG ABUSE. THIS CONCERN HAS
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BEEN REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED TO SEVERAL RECENT GOVERNMENTS

OF TURKEY BY THIS AND PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS, BY MANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS, AND BY THE UNITED NATIONS. IN A DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR WILLIAM B. MACOMBER, TURKEY'S PRIME MINISTER SULEYMAN DEMIREL HAS STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT POPPY CULTIVATION MUST BE UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL AND THAT HE IS DETERMINED TO SEE THAT THIS IS DONE. PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL HAS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT THIS ASSURANCE BE TRANSMITTED TO ME PERSONALLY AND I HAVE PERSONALLY ACKNOWLEDGED IT.

4. I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY REPORTS FROM OUR EMBASSY IN ANKARA, FROM THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, AND FROM THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH INDICATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY'S EFFORTS AT KEEPING POPPY CULTIVATION UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN SUCCESSFUL. THIS YEAR TURKEY ADOPTED THE POPPY STRAW PROCESS OF CULTIVATION. BECAUSE THIS METHOD OF HARVESTING DOES NOT (RPT NOT) PRODUCE RAW OPIUM, THE POPPY STRAW PROCESS HAS BEEN USED IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES TO ELIMINATE ILLICIT DIVERSION FROM LEGAL OPIUM POPPY GROWING AREAS.

5. THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL HAS PROVIDED TURKEY WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PRESENT STRICT CONTROL SYSTEM USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE POPPY STRAW PROCESS. I BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE GOOD WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL IN ITS ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN COMBATTING THE DIVERSION OF LEGALLY PRODUCED OPIATES FROM LEGITIMATE PHARMACEUTICAL USES.

6. THE FOREGOING WAS DRAFTED IN RESPONSE TO REF E BEFORE REF G ARRIVED. WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED IN REF G:

A. WE SHALL INQUIRE AS TO WHETHER PRIMIN WILL RESPOND TO PRESIDENT'S LETTER BUT RECALL THAT THE LETTER WAS IN RESPONSE TO INITIATIVE PRIMIN TOOK WITH AMBASSADOR. THEREFORE PRIMIN MAY FEEL THAT NO RPT NO RESPONSE IS NECESSARY (ALTHOUGH HIS STAFF INFORMALLY ADVISES US CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT THEY THINK A REPLY PROBABLY WILL BE SENT).

B. AMBASSADOR CONTINUES TO STRESS ON APPROPRIATE OCCASION IN HIS CONTACTS WITH TURKISH OFFICIALS THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING EFFECTIVE SURVEILLANCE OF POPPY CULTIVATION IN TURKEY. HIS BASIC POINT IS THAT IF THE SURVEILLANCE EFFORT IN FACT PREVENTS ANY SIGNIFICANT DIVERSION OF TURKISH POPPY PRODUCTION

INTO ILLICIT CHANNELS, THE POPPY QUESTION WHICH HAS
PLAGUED U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS FOR A GOOD MANY YEARS
WILL SOON DIMINISH AND DISAPPEAR. IF,
HOWEVER, SURVEILLANCE PROVES INEFFECTIVE, THE PROBLEM
WILL REMAIN A MAJOR IMPEDIMENT TO GOOD
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
MACOMBER

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